



**Arizona Central West
Zone Incident
Management Team**

**February Fire
NEWS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release:
Friday, February 10, 2006 10:00 a.m.

Contact number – (602) 228-8399
(602) 525-4631
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Acres: 1,961 acres	Start date: Monday, February 6, 2005
Cause: Human, under investigation	Location: 12 miles north of Payson, Arizona
Containment: 25 percent	Fuels: Chaparral, pine and juniper
Terrain: Rough, broken, steep terrain	Cost: Undetermined
Total personnel: 320	Crews: 7 crews
Equipment: 12 engines, 2 dozers, 6 water tenders	
Available air support: Three helicopters, two air tankers	

Aided by cool, cloudy weather, fire crews made significant progress on the February Fire Thursday. After establishing hand and dozer line around the perimeter, crews initiated burn outs along the line, particularly near Bray Creek Ranch and Camp Geronimo Boy Scout Camp, removing much of the fuel load and reinforcing the line. The blacklining is continuing today in preparation for aerial ignition that is planned for Sunday. This activity will cause a significant increase in the smoke visible to surrounding communities. Aerial ignition will be done in a way to produce a low intensity burn of the surface fuels, removing the dense undergrowth while preserving the majority of the trees.

Current forecasts indicate a probability of Red Flag conditions Saturday. In the event these conditions extend into Sunday, contingency plans will be implemented. Firing operations will only occur if they can be done safely with the greatest chance for success.

Due to safety considerations, the Control Road (FR 64) will be closed beginning tonight at midnight. The closure will cover the area from the Geronimo and Geronimo Estates Roads (FR 440 and FR 458) to the Washington Park Road (FR 32)

End